



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 315 – Maryland Environmental Service - Membership of Board of
Directors - Alterations

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

We would like to thank Senator Brooks for sponsoring Senate Bill 315, which proposes to remove the State Treasurer from the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Board of Directors and replace that position with the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning. MES writes to you today in support of this bill.

The Maryland General Assembly passed the MES Reform Act of 2021, which restructured the MES Board into what it is today - an eight member (seven voting) governing body with the following members: the State Treasurer, three private sector members, three public sector members, and the executive director (who serves on the board, but in a non-voting capacity).

In 2023, Chapter 113 (SB 959), which was considered by this Committee, was approved by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Moore. This bill transferred the Maryland 529 Plan to the Office of the State Treasurer. The beleaguered college investment plan program has since consumed a significant amount of the Office of the State Treasurer's time and attention. Consequently, MES worked with the Office of the State Treasurer during the 2024 interim to develop a solution to help relieve the burden on their resources.

The Maryland Department of Planning is well positioned to contribute to MES's governance. Like MES, MDP works hand-in-hand with local jurisdictions to solve unique problems facing Maryland's counties and municipalities. MDP's mission is very

much focused on the preservation of our State's environment and natural resources, which compliments MES's mission and statutory charter. We believe the Secretary of Planning is a natural fit for the MES Board of Directors and will result in a seamless transition.

With this, MES urges the Committee to grant SB 315 a favorable report.

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